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ABSTRACT

The initial phase of the University of Georgia's evaluation program in Early Childhood Education involved a search of the literature relevant to instrumentation, methodology, and procedures for measuring the growth of young children. This resulting bibliography includes reports, articles, books, and selected tests published between 1960 and 1968. It is arranged in sections which include studies in Early Childhood Learning, appropriate standardized tests, experimental instruments, studies on teacher attitudes toward Early Childhood Education, and general references. The test entries are listed by type: achievement, mental ability, personality, etc. The second phase of this project will consist of the expansion and annotation of the bibliography. (PR)

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Thomas M. Goolsby, Jr.
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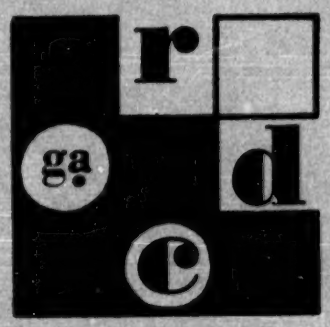

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Evaluation Division of any research group engaged in the education of young children is to answer questions concerning the outcomes of objectives proposed and carried out by means of various programs. The kind of education that is offered and its probable effects on children are the concern of all educators and particularly the evaluator.

In addition to finding subjects and eliciting their cooperation, the major problem of the evaluator is one of designing and/or finding standardized instruments appropriate to the preschool level. Abilities which are readily identifiable in older children are not so easily differentiated in young children. The evaluator must select the characteristics to be measured, investigate the attitudes of teachers toward early learning, and define "early childhood education" to the satisfaction of professional educators.

The above are only a few of the problems encountered by the evaluator in developing specific instruments for the evaluation of children's behavior. Further, there are the problems of communication between the researcher and the educational institutions in which research is to be carried out. There are also problems of scoring and analyzing the data after it has been collected.

During the early childhood years, if the evaluator is alert and skilled in the methods of observation, he will find that the children themselves will indicate or suggest solutions to some of the problems described above. From such "child watching" methods have evolved some of the most innovative techniques developed in the last decade for assessing growth in preschool children. An example of one of these techniques is the development of The Evaluation of Cognitive Development, An Observational Technique: Pre-Reading Skills developed by the University of Georgia Research and Development Center. This technique is based on observation of behavioral symptoms which, while not specifically inherent to the cognitive skills, are considered necessary in forming the foundation for later mastery of these skills.

In an attempt to define the status of learning in early childhood education the initial phase of the evaluation program of the University of Georgia consisted of a search of the literature relevant to instrumentation, methodology and procedures for measuring the growth of young children. The purpose of this search was to acquaint the researchers with the current status of research and development in this area and to furnish some basis for planning an evaluation program.

The following bibliography is intended to cover reports, articles, books and selected tests published between 1960 and 1968 relevant to measurement in early childhood learning.

The second phase of this project will consist of the annotation of this bibliography and a review of the literature relevant to instrumentation, methodology and measures in early childhood learning.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

In order to facilitate reference to the bibliography, items have been arranged in sections. These sections include articles of a theoretical and experimental nature, some books and studies dealing with specific kinds of instruments both individual and group.

SECTION I. STUDIES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING

This section includes articles of a general nature discussing various theories, opinions and comments concerning early childhood education, and attempts at their application.

SECTION II. EXPERIMENTAL INSTRUMENTS FOUND IN CURRENT LITERATURE

Studies in this section describe the construction and evaluation of experimental devices appropriate for the evaluation of the behavior of preschool children. The scarcity of instruments at this level necessitated a search for devices that might be applied to the population selected by this Center. Some of the instruments found in literature were very helpful in serving as models for the construction of new instruments unique to the University of Georgia Program.

SECTION III. STANDARDIZED INSTRUMENTS APPROPRIATE FOR MEASUREMENT OF YOUNG CHILDREN

This section presents a number of selected standardized tests which are suitable for use with primary and preprimary children.

SECTION IV. STUDIES OF ATTITUDES OF TEACHERS TOWARD EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Articles in this section deal with attitudes of teachers toward early childhood learning. This search evolved from an attempt to develop a scale to measure the attitude of teachers in this area. The scale will include attitudes of teachers toward children in general; problems of discipline, particularly at an early age; teacher's attitudes toward the development of learning in young children; attitudes related to philosophy of education, curriculum, and administration; and attitudes related to the personality of teachers themselves, i.e., their likes and dislikes, and sources of irritation. The development of the scale is now in progress.

SECTION V. GENERAL REFERENCES

This section was designed to list for the interested researcher some of the literature which deals with early childhood education ranging from the classic methods of Montessori and Piaget to the more current and controversial approaches to the field introduced by Bereiter and Engelmann. No attempt has been made to be either representative or exhaustive in coverage.

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